

REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claims 1-3 [and claims 6-14] were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being anticipated by the newly cited patent to Masumura et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,366,302). Claims 4 and 5 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim and were otherwise indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant and applicant's attorney acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowability concerning claims 4-5.

In accordance with this amendment, applicant has elected to accept the allowable subject matter to expedite issuance of the patent.

In accordance with this amendment, allowable dependent claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form to incorporate the subject matter of base claim 1, thereby placing claim 4 in allowable form. Claim 5, which depends on claim 4, is therefore also allowable.

Rejected claims 1-3 and 6-14 have been canceled.

As a result of these amendments, all rejected claims have been canceled and only allowable claims 4-5 remain pending. Thus the present amendment, on its face, places the application in immediate condition for allowance without

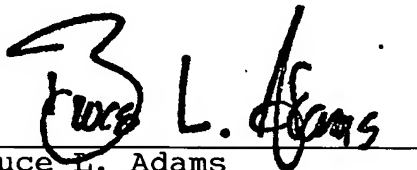
raising any new issues that would require further search or consideration.

In light of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration and entry of this amendment together with passage of the application to issue are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAILING CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: MAIL STOP AMENDMENT, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on the date indicated below.

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November 2, 2005

Date